

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for setting gap dimensions between a movable flap of an automotive vehicle and a surrounding body of that vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) initially fitting the flap and holding the flap in a roughly adjusted installation position in alignment with the body;
 - b) suctioning the flap against a mechanical stop using a pneumatic suctioning device, said mechanical stop being fixed relative to the surrounding body but freely pivotable about an axis of rotation;
 - c) finely adjusting the flap by pivoting said mechanical stop to achieve predetermined gap dimensions; and
 - d) movably fixing the flap to the body following step c).
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said axis of rotation extends parallel to a surface extension of the flap.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said axis of rotation is vertical.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein a fixed relation of said mechanical stop to the surrounding body is obtained by supporting said mechanical stop on at least one first support point on the surrounding body and on at least one second support point on the flap, wherein, viewed in a direction substantially perpendicular to a surface extension of the flap, said axis of rotation is thereby disposed between said first and said second support points.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein a fixed relation of said mechanical stop relative to the surrounding body is obtained by supporting said mechanical stop on at least two support points on the surrounding body and on at least one further support point on the flap, wherein, viewed in a direction substantially perpendicular to a surface extension of the flap, said axis of rotation is thereby disposed in a region of said at least two support points.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said mechanical stop is approached substantially perpendicular to a surface extension of the flap using a handling device for the flap.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said mechanical stop and said pneumatic suctioning device form a closing wedge simulation unit which can be pivoted about a substantially vertical common axis of rotation, wherein said unit approaches the flap substantially perpendicular to a surface extension of the flap until said mechanical stop is supported on at least two support points on the surrounding body, wherein the flap is then drawn by said pneumatic suctioning device against said mechanical stop.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein said stop is drawn against the surrounding body using a further pneumatic suctioning device.
9. A device for setting gap dimensions between a moveable flap of an automotive vehicle and a surrounding body of that vehicle, the device comprising:

means for initially fitting the flap and for holding the flap in a roughly adjusted installation position in alignment with the body;

a mechanical stop, said mechanical stop being fixed relative to the surrounding body but freely pivotable about an axis of rotation;

a pneumatic suctioning device for suctioning the flap against a mechanical stop;

means for finely adjusting the flap by pivoting said mechanical stop to attain predetermined gap dimensions; and
means for movably fixing the flap to the body in a finely adjusted installation position on the body.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein said axis of rotation extends parallel to said surface extension of the flap.
11. The device of claim 10, wherein said axis of rotation is vertical.
12. The device of claim 9, wherein said mechanical stop is fixed relative to the surrounding body, said mechanical stop being supported on at least one first support point on the surrounding body and on at least one second support point on the flap, wherein said axis of rotation, viewed in a direction substantially perpendicular to a surface extension of the flap, is disposed between said first and said second support points.

13. The device of claim 9, wherein said mechanical stop is fixed relative to the surrounding body, said mechanical stop being supported on at least two support points on the surrounding body and on at least one further support point on the flap and, viewed in a direction substantially perpendicular to a surface extension of the flap said axis of rotation is disposed in a region of said at least two support points.
14. The device of claim 9, wherein said mechanical stop is resiliently disposed substantially perpendicular to a surface extension of the flap using a first spring element.
15. The device of claim 9, wherein said mechanical stop is resiliently held in a preferred pivoting position about said axis of rotation using a second spring element.
16. The device of claim 9, wherein said pneumatic suctioning device and said mechanical stop are structured as a closing wedge simulation unit which can be pivoted about a common axis of rotation.
17. The device of claim 16, wherein said pneumatic suctioning device is structured as an expansion bellows suctioning device, with a portion of said mechanical stop on which the flap is supported being disposed inside said expansion bellows.
18. The device of claim 9, further comprising an additional pneumatic suctioning device to hold the device on the surrounding body.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein said additional pneumatic suctioning device is disposed on said stop in a region of at least one support point on the surrounding body.